

Information Concerning the Nature of the Survey.—The text of the minutes concerning the survey (Item 5) follows:

"Public Opinion Survey re Medical Profession:

"The firm of Foote, Cone & Belding, through its representative, Mr. John R. Little, submitted a report on the 'Survey of Public Relations of the California Medical Profession as of January, 1944.' The same was a survey of 5,090 personally conducted interviews with a representative cross section of the population of the State of California, made during the month of November, 1943.

"Mr. Little submitted an interpretative report to the Council, the same being the considered opinion of a 24-man board of public opinion specialists associated with the firm of Foote, Cone & Belding.

"The interpretative report dealt with the 232-page detailed report and tabulation, copies of which were also submitted. The mimeographed report of more than 200 pages exhaustively covered many subjects vital to the medical profession. It was stated that the survey was accurate to within a very small degree of error. For the basis of calculation, the population of California was taken as seven million. By using the tables in the survey, it is possible to determine what is the opinion of lay citizens, in relation to medical practice and proposed Federal legislation as shown in various geographical districts, according to factors such as sex, age, occupation, size of city, income class, length of residence, etc.

"Mr. Little stated that one of the heart-warming elements of the survey was the high opinion in which most citizens hold the profession of medicine. The difficulties facing the medical profession dealt, however, with other factors. The interpretative report by Mr. Little dwelt only on one or two of the more important elements involved.

"Questions and discussion followed. Upon motion made and seconded, it was voted that, until such time as was deemed proper by the Council, the contents of the interpretative and of the complete mimeographed report be held as confidential. In the meantime, members of the Council will study the report in detail for better orientation and understanding, in connection with action to be taken at the next meeting of the Council.

"Statement was submitted by Foote, Cone & Belding for the costs of the service rendered in making the survey, in the amount of \$7,198.46, and on motion made and seconded, payment was authorized. Several councilors expressed themselves as believing the facts brought out more than justified the expense involved."

Concerning the above, more will appear in future issues of the OFFICIAL JOURNAL.

MIGRATORY AGRICULTURAL WORKERS OF CALIFORNIA: THEIR HEALTH CARE

Problem of Medical Care of Migrant Agricultural Workers.—Care of the health of thousands of needy agricultural workers, both those who are residents of California and the large num-

ber who voluntarily, or through Federal aid as in the case of the Mexicans, are brought into the State—to move from place to place and work on the various crops, as they mature—is a subject which to some may seem to be of interest to only a limited number of California citizens. The problem of medical aid, however, to many of these needy workers and their families who are, or have been, and in places are still called upon to live and work under conditions that fail to conform to minimum public health standards as regards housing environment and facilities is, nevertheless, one that should be of wide concern to all Californians. Physicians need not stretch their imagination to visualize how such itinerant workers, who are often poorly nourished and diseased, when grouped together under conditions not by any means sanitary, may become a menace not only to themselves, but to the citizens of nearby communities, and so to the people of the State at large.

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Proposed Legislation of Recent Months.—Recent issues of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE* have presented comment on these problems, with special reference to legislation still pending in the United States Congress, which, if enacted, may nullify much of the good work that has been carried on under the direction of the governmental corporation—"Agricultural Workers' Health and Medical Association." This nonprofit organization came into existence in 1938 through the efforts of the regional directors of the Federal Farm Security Administration, who at that time were faced with the problem of giving indicated medical attention to needy agricultural workers and their families. A large number of such workers were not citizens of California and, therefore, ineligible for care in county and similar public hospitals. Up to that time the burden of giving gratuitous service to these unfortunates, in good part, had fallen upon the shoulders of civilian physicians in the various communities where these migrants were quartered.

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How California Medical Association Became Interested.—It was then that the Governmental authorities requested advice and help from our State Association. The California Medical Association Council responded by nominating Dr. Karl L. Schaupp, present president of the California Medical Association, to represent it. Here it is sufficient to state that under the direction of himself and that of his two physician colleagues, the medical service for the needy migratory workers has been carried on in manner that has subverted the best standards of healing-art care, in so far as appropriations permitted.

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Recent Legislative Proposals.—During the past several months, through influences not altogether discernible, in one of the political and departmental interchanges or mix-ups, so frequently in evidence nowadays at Washington, D. C., the

* References in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE: November, 1943, pages 287-289; December, pages 343-344; January, 1944, pages 32-33.

entire medical program has been endangered, through certain provisions in the proposed laws. In other words, the good work of the past six years would come to an end, with possible return to the unfortunate conditions existing in 1938.

Faced with this dilemma, the representatives of the California Medical Association, through Doctor Schaupp, contacted and informed California Congressmen concerning the issues at stake. Perusal of the footnote references already given will permit readers to acquaint themselves with the details of the endeavors that have been made to secure amendments to the proposed laws.

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Generous Coöperation of California's Senators and Congressmen.—It is heartening to be able to state that, once the implications of the proposed legislation were explained to the California Senators and Congressmen, hearty coöperation was promised. Senator Hiram W. Johnson introduced S. 1493 and Congressman George E. Outland submitted a companion bill, H. R. 3651. At the time of this writing, the final report of the Senate and House Conference Committees in Congress is not known. However, in response to the recommendations of the California Medical Association—in coöperation with organizations such as the California State Chamber of Commerce, the California Farm organizations, and others—the appropriation for medical care that had been reduced 50 per cent was restored, and other desirable amendments also made. It is pleasing to be able to express thanks to the United States Senators and Congressmen from California and to the Appropriations Chairmen from other States, for the generous aid rendered by them.

JOHN STROTHER GRIFFIN, M. D.—FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Important Historical Legacy Left to California by Doctor Griffin.—The medical profession of California, and particularly members of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, should congratulate themselves that the California Historical Society has brought off the press a handsome volume of ninety-seven pages, "A Doctor Comes to California—The Diary of John S. Griffin, M. D., 1846-1847."

When the seven founders of the Los Angeles County Medical Association met in the office of Doctors Griffin and Widney on January 31, 1871, to bring that organization into existence they elected as their first president, Doctor Griffin, whose diary is the basis of the volume noted above.* In the years that have since elapsed, the Los Angeles Society has steadily grown, until today its membership embraces some 2,922 physicians, a total so imposing as to place it in the group with

the first four or five largest component county medical units in the United States.

The volume here referred to is a transcription of Doctor Griffin's journal which he kept when attached as assistant surgeon in General Kearny's "Army of the West," which consisted of three companies of dragoons, who started in 1846 from Santa Fe, New Mexico, to take possession of California under orders from the United States Government.

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The 1846 Trek from New Mexico to California.—That journey from Santa Fe to San Diego, and northward to Los Angeles and other California districts, began on September 25, 1846. Doctor Griffin's story concerns the hardships endured by General Kearny's small force as it crossed the unknown and trackless deserts, and it recounts what took place in the battles of San Pascual, San Gabriel, La Mesa and Los Angeles, and reveals his methods of treatment for wounds and diseases afflicting the soldiers in his charge. The narrative is most interesting.

Doctor Griffin received his M. D. degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1837, practicing his art in Louisville for three years, to then enter the United States Army as an assistant surgeon. He remained in the Army until 1854, then resigning to take up practice in the "pueblo of Los Angeles," where he remained until his death, at the age of 82, in 1898.

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An Unusual Group of Founders.—It is a remarkable historical fact that the Los Angeles County Medical Association, in its group of seven founders, should have had three individuals whose services to their community and to the medical profession were of exceptional worth: . . . John Strother Griffin . . . Joseph Pomeroy Widney . . . Henry Sayre Orme.

Concerning Doctor Griffin's diary, Dr. George D. Lyman of San Francisco, who wrote the illuminating foreword to the volume now receiving comment, states that "Bancroft, in writing that part of the history of California, depended on a transcription of Griffin's diaries. 'His Journal of '46-47,' writes Bancroft, 'is one of the best authorities extant.' Unfortunately, he did not have the original as here presented."

Joseph P. Widney, who shared offices with Doctor Griffin in 1871, was a graduate of Toland Medical College (U. C.) and later organized the College of Medicine of the University of Southern California, in time becoming the president of that institution and saving its properties from foreclosure through advancement of money from his own resources. Doctor Widney's death, at the age of 91, occurred on July 4, 1938.*

Henry Sayre Orme, another of the founders, was a surgeon in the Confederate Army. He was

* *A Doctor Comes to California: The Diary of John S. Griffin, Assistant Surgeon with Kearny's Dragoons, 1846-1847.* With an Introduction and Notes by George Walcott Ames, Jr., and a Foreword by George D. Lyman, M. D. Cloth. Pp. 97, with illustrations. Price, \$2.31. San Francisco: California Historical Society, 456 McAllister, San Francisco, 1943.

* Concerning Dr. J. P. Widney, see CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE: August, 1938, pages 106 and 161; April, 1936, page 292; May, 1936, page 396; and June, 1937, page 398.